



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 9

75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

APR 14 1995

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Contamination in the Underground Injection Well at the Duck Valley Shoshone Paiute Reservation in Owyhee, NV

**FROM:** Clint Seiter  
RCRA Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Section

**TO:** Alisa Wong  
Drinking Water Compliance Section

This memo is in regard to whether or not the wastes in the underground injection well at the Duck Valley Shoshone Paiute Reservation can be considered hazardous. The samples in question are identified as SYD801 (Floor Drain - Sediment Phase) and SYD802 (Floor Drain - Liquid Phase).

Benzene and toluene were among the chemicals detected in the SYD801 sample. How these wastes are listed depends upon their origins. Per 40 CFR 261.33, if the benzene and toluene were originally "commercial chemical products", that is, if they were commercially pure grade when discarded into the well, then they are listed as U019 and U220 respectively. In this case, this is highly unlikely. Considering that the facility in question maintained vehicles, it's a much more compelling argument that these wastes are spent non-halogenated solvents with an F005 listing.

The SYD802 sample indicated the presence of acetone and xylene, among other contaminants. As with the SYD801 sample, how these chemicals are listed depends upon their origin. If the acetone and xylene present were "commercial chemical products", then they are listed as U002 and U239 respectively. Again, it's much more likely that they are both spent non-halogenated solvents with an F003 listing.

Because of the high likelihood that wastes in both samples are F-listed wastes, the contaminants in the well should be disposed of according to RCRA regulations.